

REMARKS

Claims 8-10 and 14 are pending. Claims 1-7, 11-13 and 15-22 are cancelled and claim 10 is amended. Support for the amendment can be found in the specification and in the claims as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 since this Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance for reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise any new issue regarding further search and/or consideration since the Amendment amplifies issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally-rejected claims and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary because it corrects a typographical error as suggested by the Examiner. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 8-10 and 14 are allowed.

As mentioned above, claim 10 has been objected to for containing an asserted informality. Applicants have amended claim 10 as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claim 10 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Morton et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,376,312). Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morton et al.

While Applicants do not necessarily agree with these rejections, Applicants respectfully submit that the above rejections have been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1-7. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and

withdrawal of the above rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Morton et al. and the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Morton et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and request favorable action thereon. If the Examiner believes that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below to schedule a personal or telephone interview to discuss any remaining issues.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment that may be due with respect to this paper to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket No. 101190-00025.

Respectfully submitted,

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